

FW: Mendicino/Savage/Kenny Readout

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Date: Tue, 08 Feb 2022 17:39:39 +0000

Flagging below.

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From: Barrack, Radey
Sent: Tuesday, February 8, 2022 9:53 AM
To: Astravas, Zita <Zita.Astravas@qpc-cpr.gc.ca>; Rettig, Christina <Christina.Rettig@qpc-cpr.gc.ca>; Cullinan, Annie <Annie.Cullinan@qpc-cpr.gc.ca>; Williams, Caroline <Caroline.Williams@qpc-cpr.gc.ca>
Subject: Mendicino/Savage/Kenny Readout

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Date: Feb 7th, 2022

Participants:

Min. Mendicino (M3)
Premier Kenney (PK)
Min. Savage (MS)

- **M3:** I know it's been a long day and we have some important business. Just wanted to quickly bring you up to speed for request for additional resources from the RCMP. I have a letter that has just came up from the RCMP Commissioner. **Haven't read it fully yet but I am going to read it and think it's trending in the right direction. Stay tuned for some quick works back on that.**
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- **PK:** Ok. **We are disappointed to not have our RFA for emergency assistance from CAF not approved.** Paraphrasing but seems the response from GoC is not interested in having military involved **s.38** and doesn't have relevant equipment. However, **we have good and reliable intel, that there's relevant equipment s.38**
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- **M3:** Can you just walk me through though Premier. What's the equipment. What exactly is the equipment you need in the present circumstances.
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- **s.38**
s.38 One of my DMs was the immediate past commander of the army and vice chief of defense staff so he knows and has current contacts in the forces. **s.38**
s.38 The letter back to us said the equipment the CAF has will do damage to the truckers being towed- well who gives a \$hit. They were at the point of seizing equipment from people blocking an international border. This should not be a governing principle.
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- **M3:** You're saying this should be an impediment, is your point.
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- **KP:** Right. We are of the view, assisting the national police force, acting on behalf of the province, trying to open an international border, **s.38** I think

what may be going on, is there is a kinda muscle memory s.38

s.38

Will be

honest with you, RCMP in AB have tried for a week for a week to try and get some heavy equipment to haul these off the road. However not getting anyway. Everything we think we're getting somewhere, companies are fearful, getting threatened and not interested.

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- **M3:** I've heard that before.

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- **PK:** We are running out of option. Here's the good news, the protest at and around Coutts is dissipating. One Day 1 it was approximately 1,000 – but then now we just have 100 very committed folks. Constantly arguing and no leadership. After 3-4days, finally they opened up one lane north and south bound across the PoE. That has been complicated by the fact the 16KMs north, RCMP set up a roadblock/check point. That check point has become a quasi-chaotic blockade, which has turned into festival environment, especially weekends, kinda like Ottawa. The number of vehicles keeps going down. Down to 48 last count semi-trucks at the border itself. We have traffic up to 50% at normal volumes at Coutts. We have been able to keep the other 3 PoEs open. Diverting traffic over there. The current situation on the ground isn't catastrophic. Traffic is moving. Both we, the provincial, and RCMP have decided for the next day or two to hold off on any enforcement because we want to see there continues to move to dissipate of the protestors. **Tomorrow night I'm making an announcement about some gradual relaxations of PH measures. Hoping it'll take the wind out of their sails. Going to wait and see what happens. If we get past the next 48-72 hours the situation is totally unpredictable and combustible. It's possible things may goes in the wrong direction. If that happens, what we we're gonna need heavy equipment, one way or another.**

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- **M3:** Okay. I totally hear you. It sounds to me, I've been listening very attentively Premier, the next 2-3 days are critical in your opinion. We are at a focal point, and that it can go either way. What you're saying, in 3 days, if instead of dissipating, if this things picks up stream again, and you get some really committed extreme protestors that are doubling down, and there's no more flow, it further underlies rationale for your request, correct?

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- **PK:** Correct

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- **M3:** Okay, let me take it back to Ministers Blair and Anand. I have a meeting with them tomorrow morning on some other items, but I will stress to them, your concerns as you've articulated them to me tonight.

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- **PK:** Yeah the bottom line, if things take a turn for the worse, we can do nothing to help Canada keep our border open in this part of the country, without some heavy equipment. I think that should matter to Canada, that certainly matters to us.

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- **M3:** I will relay that.

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- **PK:** I appreciate that. Anything to add Min. Savage?

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- **MS:** Premier covered it very well. The situation remains very volatile and unpredictable. Looks like deescalating but could get worse

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- **PK:** All these protests are connected. You know, if Ottawa/Ontario suddenly starts to do heavy enforcement, will have impacts across the country. Not saying not to do it, but whatever we do in one area will have reaction elsewhere.

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- **M3:** Absolutely. I think you laid it out. I have my notes, and my staff as theirs. We're gonna take this back to Ministers Blair and Anand and will make the point.
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- **PK:** Thanks, appreciate it. All we can ask of you.
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